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THE CONDOR

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Western Ornithology

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EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

Attention of persons especially interested in game conservation is urgently called to the proposed new regulations for the protection of migratory birds, printed on this and following pages. Some significant changes will be noted when comparison is made with the regulations up till now in force. Criticisms and comments are invited by the Secretary of Agriculture; these should be forwarded at once.

With the departure of Mr. Walter P. Taylor to join the staff of the Biological Survey in Washington, the ranks of Pacific Coast ornithologists have lost a useful member. While Taylor is a relatively young man he has already shown marked ability in field work and in faunistic research. But the particular thing which has qualified his activity has been his concentration upon

the idea of wild life conservation. With a good equipment in general knowledge of natural history, and with a certain civic consciousness—these combined with energy and mental alertness—his influence as re-

gards game and bird protection has been far-reaching. It is needless here to recount the activities of the society which he was mainly instrumental in founding and carrying on, and the results which were with greater or less success attained. References to files of THE CONDOR will show many of his reports as Secretary of the California Associated Societies for the Conservation of Wild Life. It seems to us fortunate that Taylor has now entered government service where opportunities for just this kind of work would seem likely to offer in large measure. While for the moment we regret the loss of Taylor's influence here in the West, we can but congratulate him upon his advancement in position and opportunities.

The Cooper Club has sustained a loss in the death of Alphonse Jay, who died from injuries received in an automobile accident on May 25, 1916. Mr. Jay was one of the most active and enthusiastic of bird students in Los Angeles, and he will be sorely missed from the meetings of the Southern Division.

Not long ago a group of California members of the Cooper Ornithological Club were talking informally about the current trend and achievements in ornithology. Some way or another the conversation centered on the relative eminence attained to among living ornithologists, and after much debate the following five were selected as foremost in America in point of scientific output: (1) R. Ridgway, (2) J. A. Allen, (3) L. Stejneger, (4) W. Stone, (5) H. C. Oberholser. It was further concluded, that, as interpreters of our science, in other words, popularizers of ornithology, the following had achieved greatest success, directly or indirectly, in order of merit as named: (1) Frank M. Chapman, (2) Florence Merriam Bailey, (3) John Burroughs, (4) William Dutcher, (5) Louis A. Fuertes.

PROPOSED NEW REGULATIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF MIGRATORY BIRDS

Pursuant to the provision of the act of March 4, 1913, authorizing and directing the Department of Agriculture to adopt suitable regulations prescribing and fixing closed seasons for migratory birds (37 Stat., 847), having due regard to zones of temperature, breeding habits, and times and lines of migratory flight, the Department of Agriculture has prepared and hereby makes public, for examination and consideration before final adoption, the following regulations:

Regulation 1. Definitions.

For the purposes of these regulations the

following shall be considered migratory game birds:

(a) Anatidae or waterfowl, including brant, wild ducks, geese, and swans.

(b) Gruidae or cranes, including little brown, sandhill, and whooping cranes.

(c) Rallidae or rails, including coots, gallinules, and sora and other rails.

(d) Limicolae or shore birds, including avocets, curlew, dowitchers, godwits, knots, oyster catchers, phalaropes, plover, sandpipers, snipe, stilts, surf birds, turnstones, willet, woodcock, and yellowlegs.

(e) Columbidae or pigeons, including doves and wild pigeons.

For the purposes of these regulations the following shall be considered migratory insectivorous birds:

(f) Bobolinks, catbirds, chickadees, cuckoos, flickers, flycatchers, grosbeaks, hummingbirds, kinglets, martins, meadowlarks, nighthawks or bull bats, nuthatches, orioles, robins, shrikes, swallows, swifts, tanagers, titmice, thrushes, vireos, warblers, waxwings, whippoorwills, woodpeckers, and wrens, and all other perching birds which feed entirely or chiefly on insects.

Regulation 2. Closed season at Night.

A daily closed season on all migratory game and insectivorous birds shall extend from sunset to sunrise.

Regulation 3. Closed season on Insectivorous Birds.

A closed season on migratory insectivorous birds shall continue throughout each year, except that the closed season on reed-birds or ricebirds in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, the District of Columbia, Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina shall commence November 1 and end August 31, next following, both dates inclusive: *Provided*, That nothing in this or any other of these regulations shall be construed to prevent the issue of permits for collecting birds for scientific purposes in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in the respective States and Territories and the District of Columbia.

Regulation 4. Closed seasons on Certain Game Birds.

A closed season shall continue until September 1, 1918, on the following migratory game birds: Band-tailed pigeons, little brown, sandhill, and whooping cranes, wood ducks, swans, curlew, willet, and all shore birds except the black-breasted and golden plover, Wilson or jacksnipe, woodcock, and the greater and lesser yellowlegs.

A closed season shall also continue until September 1, 1918, on rails in California and Vermont and on woodcock in Illinois and Missouri.

Regulation 5. Zones.

The following zones for the protection of migratory game and insectivorous birds are hereby established.

Zone No. 1, the breeding zone comprising the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, West Virginia, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington—31 States.

Zone No. 2, the wintering zone comprising the States of Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, and California—17 States, and the District of Columbia.

Regulation 6. Construction.

For the purposes of regulations 7 and 8 each period of time therein prescribed as a closed season shall be construed to include the first and last day thereof.

Regulation 7. Closed Seasons in Zone No. 1.

Waterfowl.—The closed season on waterfowl, including coots and gallinules, shall be between December 21 and September 6 next following, except as follows:

Exceptions: In Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York (except Long Island), Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, and West Virginia the closed season shall be between January 1 and September 15;

In Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Long Island, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Washington, Oregon, Utah, and Nevada the closed season shall be between January 16 and September 30; and

In Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri the closed season shall be between March 11 and September 15 and between November 16 and February 9.

Rails.—The closed season on sora and other rails, excluding coots and gallinules, shall be between December 1 and August 31 next following, except as follows:

Exception: In Vermont the closed season shall continue until the open season in 1918.

Shorebirds.—The closed season on black-breasted and golden plover and greater and

lesser yellowlegs shall be between December 1 and August 15 next following, except as follows:

Exception: In Utah the closed season shall continue until the open season in 1918.

Jacksnipe.—The closed season on jacksnipe or Wilson snipe shall be between December 16 and September 15 next following.

Woodcock.—The closed season on woodcock shall be between December 1 and September 30 next following, except as follows:

Exceptions: In Illinois and Missouri the closed season shall continue until the open season in 1918.

Regulation 8. Closed Seasons in Zone No. 2.

Waterfowl.—The closed season on waterfowl, including coots and gallinules, shall be between February 1 and October 14 next following, except as follows:

Exceptions: In Alabama, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia, the closed season shall be between February 1 and October 31 next following.

Rails.—The closed season on sora and other rails, excluding coots and gallinules, shall be between December 1 and August 31 next following, except as follows:

Exceptions: In Louisiana the closed season shall be between February 1 and October 31; and

In California the closed season shall continue until the open season in 1918.

Shorebirds.—The closed season on black-breasted and golden plover and greater and lesser yellowlegs shall be between December 1 and August 15, next following.

Jacksnipe.—The closed season on jacksnipe or Wilson snipe shall be between February 1 and October 31 next following.

Woodcock.—The closed season on woodcock shall be between January 1 and October 31 next following.

Regulation 9. Hearings.

Persons recommending changes in the regulations or desiring to submit evidence in person or by attorneys as to the necessity for such changes should make application to the Secretary of Agriculture. Hearings will be arranged and due notice thereof given by publication or otherwise as may be deemed appropriate. Persons recommending changes should be prepared to show the necessity for such action and to submit evidence other than that based on reasons of personal convenience or a desire to kill game during a longer open season.

MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

NORTHERN DIVISION

APRIL.—The regular meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, April 20, 1916, at eight o'clock, with the following persons present: Misses Davidson, Miller, Swezy; Mesdames Allen, Bryant, Ferguson, Grinnell and Knappen; Messrs. Anderson, Bryant, Cohen, Davis, Evermann, Grinnell, Hansen, Hart, Jacobsen, Joseph Mailliard, Stone, Storer, Swarth and Trenor. Visitors: Mesdames Stone and Swarth, Miss Ferguson and Dr. Waterman.

After the reading of the minutes of the two Divisions and of the Intermountain Chapter, the following were elected to membership: Pirie Davidson, San Rafael; Dr. Frank B. Davis, Oakland; E. N. Hart, Alameda; S. Griswold Morley, Berkeley; Webster Robinson, Los Angeles; Norman H. Wood, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Donald D. McLean, Coulterville; Ed. C. Jaeger, Palm Springs; and Edw. Howe Forbush, Boston. The following names were proposed for membership: Margaret S. Boardman, 3022 Clay St., S. F., by Harold E. Hansen; Joseph J. Webb, 519 California St., S. F., by Miss Amy E. Gunn; De Looch Martin, 1223 S. Washington Ave., Marshall, Tex., by Mr. Carriger; Thomas H. Benton, 2821 Van Buren St., Alameda, and Dr. Morton R. Gibbons, 3979 Washington St., San Francisco, by D. A. Cohen; Mrs. G. Hoag, Anaheim, by H. C. Bryant; Cora Smedburg, Felton, by Margaret Wythe; Dudley S. De Groot, San Francisco, by A. E. Price; Mattie Beth Morgan, Fort Worth, Tex., by J. B. Litsey, Jr.; Charles N. Black, San Francisco, Roland F. Hussey, Ann Arbor, Mich., Ralph E. Dodge, Santa Cruz, and Benj. F. Bolt, Kansas City, by W. Lee Chambers; Aldo Leopold, Albuquerque, N. M., and Mrs. P. H. Winston, Chloride, N. M., by J. Stokeley Ligon.

Mr. Grinnell then offered a resolution relative to the death of Professor Wells W. Cooke (see CONDOR, May, 1916, page 131). This was unanimously adopted and ordered spread on the minutes. Dr. Evermann gave some interesting personal reminiscences of Professor Cooke, telling of his methods of work and of his kindly hospitality.

Letters from the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science were reported by Mr. Storer, urging individual membership in that Association, with initiation fees remitted, and ask-